

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 EPA-04 L-03 CEQ-02 EB-11 COME-00

HEW-08 AID-20 CIAE-00 COA-02 DODE-00 INR-10 IO-14

NSF-04 NSC-10 NSAE-00 PM-07 RSC-01 SS-20 SPC-03 INT-08

CG-00 DRC-01 /151 W

----- 000139

R 302356Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9041

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, PBOR, MX

SUBJ: BILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL DISCUSSIONS WITH MEXICO

REF: A. STATE 234655

B. MEXICO 7824

1. GOM HAS CONFIRMED THAT MEXICAN-SUGGESTED TOPICS (MEXICO 8866) ARE SUPPLEMENTARY TO OUR OWN LIST. SINCE TWO LISTS WERE DEVELOPED INDEPENDENTLY, THERE IS SOME PROBABLE OVERLAP, ALTHOUGH THE EXTENT OF DUPLICATION IS DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE GIVEN OUR SPECIFICITY AND MEXICAN VAGUENESS. AT ANY RATE, SCICOUNS IS WORKING WITH SMA OFFICIALS TO DEVELOP AN AGENDA WHICH WILL INCORPORATE INTERESTS OF BOTH DELEGATIONS AND WHICH WILL PROVIDE FOR OPENING STATEMENTS ALONG LINES DISCUSSED IN SIMONPIETRI/BLACKISTON NOV 30 TELECON.

2. INTERPRETATIONS OF MEXICAN ITEMS B, E, AND F, (PARA 3 REFTEL A) IS CORRECT. SMA HAS CONFIRMED TO SCICOUNS THAT MEXICANS DO NOT INTEND TO RAISE TOPICS OF INTERNATIONAL POLLUTION STANDARDS OR STATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR POLLUTION. ONLY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RE MEXICAN INTERESTS IS
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EXPLANATION THAT UNDER ITEM G ("SEWAGE CONTROL") THEY

WOULD LIKE TO EXPLORE USG ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING EQUIPMENT TO BE USED IN MUNICIPAL SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

3. SCICOUNS WILL IMPRESS ON MEXICANS OUR HOPE THAT VIZCAINO MURRAY WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND AS MANY SESSIONS AS POSSIBLE.

4. IN REFERENCE TO PARA 5 REFTEL, EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS WASHINGTON'S DESIRE TO RAISE TOPIC OF OIL SPILLS AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE CONTINGENCY PLANNING; AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, WE ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT ANYTHING CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED IN THIS REGARD. ON THE OTHER HAND, EMBASSY FEELS VERY STRONGLY THAT USDEL SHOULD NOT RAISE QUESTION OF POLLUTION FROM DOMESTIC WASTE WATER DISCHARGES (PARA 4, STATE 230661). IF MEXICANS CHOOSE TO BROACH THIS SUBJECT (WHICH SEEMS BEYOND SCOPE OF THEIR SUGGESTED TOPICS), WE OF COURSE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO RESPOND. OTHERWISE, EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE THIS IS THE PROPER TIME OR FORUM FOR SUCH A DISCUSSION.

5. EMBASSY RECOGNIZES THAT USEFULNESS OF DECEMBER 6-7 TALKS WILL BE IN ALMOST DIRECT RELATIONSHIP TO DEGREE OF FOCUS ON SPECIFIC PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, AS REPORTED IN REFTEL B, AT LEAST MEXICAN FOREIGN SECRETARIAT IS TAKING A RATHER UNENTHUSIASTIC APPROACH. WE WOULD EXPECT VIGOROUS OBJECTION TO ANY ATTEMPT TO MOVE AWAY FROM OUR ASSURANCES TO FONSECRETARIAT THAT THESE DISCUSSIONS WILL NOT RESULT IN ANY COMMITMENT TO ACTION. HENCE, WHILE EMBASSY HOPES FOR USEFUL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND IDENTIFICATION OF AREAS FOR FUTURE ATTENTION, WE DO NOT THINK IT IS REALISTIC TO EXPECT MUCH MORE TO COME FROM THESE SESSIONS.
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